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A POPULAR PRESENTATION OF POLAR PHENOMENA

OTTO NORDENSKJÖLD. *Polarnaturen*. xii and 143 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr. (Populärt vetenskapliga föreläsningar vid Göteborgs Högskola, Ny följd, No. 15.) Albert Bonniers, Stockholm, 1918. 4.75 kronor. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ inches.

In "*Polarnaturen*" Otto Nordenskjöld presents in a popular way, and in language that the layman finds intelligible and interesting, the phenomena of the polar worlds, both south and north, a task for which he is well fitted by his travels and studies.

The first chapter is devoted to the discussion of polar climates; their influence as geographic factors; the three types of polar climate—land type, sea type, and ice type—and their distribution; and a résumé of the subject. This is followed by a chapter on ice in polar lands, its occurrence, its origin, its distribution in various types and their significance, and ice-free districts in the polar region. In the third chapter the author discusses characteristic aspects of polar landscapes; the peculiar and widespread phenomena of solifluction and *polygonboden*; the character of polar flora and fauna and their ecology; and the evolution of life forms in polar lands. An attempt is made in the fourth chapter to define the limits of true polar and subpolar lands, and to divide them into natural provinces and belts, based upon climate, vegetation, and animal life, and such other natural phenomena as lend themselves to the purpose. The high arctic regions about the North Pole are given particular attention.

The cause of the glacial period and the phenomena connected with it in the light of present ice distribution and related phenomena constitute the subject matter of the sixth chapter, probably the most fascinating part of the book, while a final chapter is devoted to the effect of the glaciers upon the topography and landscape of Scandinavia, with considerable attention to such physiographic forms as fiords, terraces, cirques, strand plateaus, and hanging valleys.

In a peculiarly pleasing conclusion summarizing the characteristic phenomena of polar lands the author emphasizes the climate, the ice mantle, and the sparse vegetation as being the distinctive features of polar nature, and points out the significant and difficult problems still confronting the polar explorer.

W. ELMER EKBLAW

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

OTTO NORDENSKJÖLD. *Geografisk Forskning og geografiske Opdagelser i det nittende Aarhundrede*. (Series: Det nittende Aarhundrede skildret af nordiske Videnskabsmænd, No. 19.) 159 pp.; maps, ills., diagr. Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, Copenhagen, 1920. $10 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Otto Nordenskjöld here gives a short treatment of the origin of modern geography at the beginning of the nineteenth century, its development up to the present time, and the exploration and colonization of the different parts of the globe. About half the book is devoted to the history of exploration. In one chapter the author deals with the main-springs of such movement—economic gain, political conditions, scientific interests, etc. Under the head of scientific knowledge of the surface of the earth he treats of the mapping of the globe, division of the land, formation of the continents, origin of the types of landscape, structure and origin of mountains and rivers, formation of valleys, work of the ice, coasts, deserts, loess, coral islands, etc. Another chapter is devoted to climate, plants, and animals, with maps showing the distribution of temperature, atmospheric pressure, cyclones, precipitation, types of climate, phytogeography, and its development—zoogeography. Finally anthropology, ethnography, and anthropogeography are shortly touched upon.

E. ANTEVS

A VISIT TO CRUSOE LAND

CARL SKOTTSBERG. *Till Robinson-Ön och Världens Ände*. 208 pp.; maps, ills. Albert Bonniers, Stockholm, 1918. 15 kronor. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Robinson Crusoe's own book is hardly less entertaining than this interesting narrative of an explorer's visit to the Juan Fernandez group and Easter Island.

Financed by various societies and institutions of Sweden, the "Swedish Pacific Expedi-